

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



125 WORTH STREET, CN-28
NEW YORK, NY 10013
NYC.GOV/HEALTH

THOMAS R. FRIEDEN, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER
TEL (212) 788-5261
FAX (212) 964-0472

May 3, 2004

Congressman Edward Markey
2108 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Peter King
436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressmen Markey and King:

I write to thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 4155, the Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004.

As you know, New York State's law, Executive Law 156-c, and its accompanying regulations, which will become effective on June 28, resulted in the adoption of cigarette fire safety performance standards that are pioneering in this country. Your sponsorship of the federal bill, which basically adopts New York's standards, will result in the spread of the benefits New York will shortly enjoy to the rest of the country. We are grateful for your efforts and applaud them. We are also grateful for Section 4, which expressly provides that the New York statute will not be preempted by the federal law. We believe that, as the Findings section states, the implementation of this law will prevent thousands of future civilian and firefighter deaths and injuries, as well as property damage, when this landmark legislation becomes effective.

Thank you again for your outstanding leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

TRF/mc